



The Mountain View

Mountain Presbyterian Church
3831 Highway 515 East
Blairsville, GA 30512

December 2010
January 2011

Dear Friends,

While the Christmas season can be a hectic time, it can also be a time of serenity as we remember who is our light in all times of darkness. We can light the candles of the Advent Wreath to remind us that the long-expected Jesus will soon return. Advent Season started last Sunday, November 28 and runs through December 24. I encourage you who have an Advent wreath to observe an advent moment and light the candles each evening. The first week we light one candle every night. The second week, two candles, and so on till Christmas Eve.

Before lighting the candles each time you may want to say the following:

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches—and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. (Isaiah 9:1-2)"

Then pray:

*O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. * May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

At the asterisk (*) in the prayer above, add these sentences for the appropriate week:

Week beginning Dec. 5: *"O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us. O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, save your people."*

Week of Dec. 12 add *"Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command; come and show us the way to salvation."*

Week of Dec. 19 add: *"O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, all things are in your hands, come and show us the way to salvation."*

Take time to reflect on our blessings from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that before extinguishing the candles, you will know a moment of serenity, hope and peace that will help prepare you for our Savior's coming and will give you strength and joy as you fulfill all the obligations and opportunities of the season.

May you have a Blessed Advent, Joyous Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Travis



*Christmas
Joy Offering*

This year I am again a bit uncomfortable to even ask you to give to another church offering. You have been amazingly generous with your financial gifts to so many special appeals as well as to our own congregational budget! And the requests just keep coming. A term has even been coined to express how many people are feeling—"philanthropic fatigue."

But, I make this request of you because I know how important this offering is to so many. The Christmas Joy Offering goes to help support our ministers and their spouses who retired before Social Security was an option for Clergy. It also helps those ministers and missionaries who have had to leave active service in the church because of medical disability. Thirdly, this offering helps our Presbyterian Racial-Ethnic High Schools and Colleges with scholarship funds.

For over 70 years through the Christmas Joy Offering we have shared the light of God's love through Christ with those of our church whose lives, for many reasons, have been darkened. I hope that this year we again will bring joy to many by our giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. We will be receiving this offering on Sunday, December 19. Thank you.

May God's gifts of Christmas bring to you great joy,

ἀγάπη, Travis



Annual Meeting



In accordance with our congregational By-Laws, the Session has called for our Annual Meeting to be held on January 16, 2011. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. The congregation will vote on the Annual Budget and the report of the Nominating Committee. Reports will be presented from the Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men, and Stewardship and Finance Committee. All members are urged to be present. Following the meeting, a lunch will be served.

Stewardship and Finance

As we begin the Advent Season, a time of reflection and anticipation, we renew our commitment to the Ministries of Mountain Presbyterian Church by turning in our pledge cards. Commitment Sunday was November 21. If you have misplaced your card, just stop by the office and pick up a new one. If you were not with us on the 21st, please mail your card in the envelope we provided.

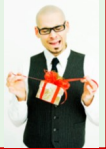
Even though the Church calendar has begun a new year, there is still some left-over business. This past year our expenses have outpaced our giving. The Session asks that as you consider your year-end giving that you think of Mountain Presbyterian Church. During the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service a special offering will be taken to help defray the expenses of the ministries of our church.

Year-to-Date: Contributions: \$168,054.38 Expenses: \$171,209.85 Loss: (\$3,155.47)

Mortgage Balance: \$27,616.00

Thank You everyone for your thoughts and prayers, cards and words of support on the passing of my daughter-in-law, Irene. Hazel Douglass

Good Presbyterian Men rejoice over breakfast and a gag gift exchange—\$10 tops! We'll meet at the church on Tuesday, December 14, at 8:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast, followed by the gift exchange. All men of the church are invited—sign up on the sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall.



Annual Christmas Luncheon—Mountain Presbyterian Women

All women of the church are invited to attend the **Annual PW Christmas Luncheon** to be held on Saturday, December 11th at 11:30AM at Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris. Total cost for the Made-to-Order Pasta and Salad bars, soup, bread, dessert, beverage, tax and gratuity will be about \$14.50 and will be paid individually. You may also order from the regular menu at various costs.

We will have a private room near the dining room. Bring a wrapped gift of about \$10 value for Santa to help distribute. Please bring a card only for your Secret Sister. If you wish to give your Secret Sister a gift, please do so at another time. There is a sign-up sheet on the PW kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up by December 8.

Presbyterian Women Meeting

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to join us on our journey into the Book of Revelation.

PW Thank Offering

We are proud to announce that \$547 will be sent to PW International. At least 40% of this offering supports hospitals and other health ministries throughout the world. Grants are also awarded to support such areas of ministry as a clergy counseling network, addressing the needs of women who are homeless and survivors of domestic abuse, renovating a kitchen in a maternity home that provides shelter for women and their children—the list goes on. The needs are many. Your gifts ease many burdens. Thank you for your generosity.

Yard Sale—Mid-Summer 2011

Start saving all your unneeded items—clothing (both summer and winter), furniture, household goods, etc. Linda Guinn and Pat Grossman will again be chairing the project if you have questions.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, Pat Grossman



A-Caroling We Will Go!


That's right! On Tuesday, December 14th, we will gather at Branan Lodge at 4:00 p.m. and begin our Annual Caroling at the Lodge at 4:30. We will then travel into Wesley Mountain Village, caroling at various homes. Be sure to wear warm clothes as it will probably be cold. Festive Christmas hats and scarves are a nice touch.

At the conclusion of our caroling, we will head to Fatz Restaurant and enjoy a dinner together—Dutch treat. As those who participated last year will readily tell you, this is a delightful, and most appreciated, way to spark your holiday spirit and that of the residents.

Please sign up on the "Caroling Sign-Up Sheet" posted in the Fellowship Hall. This will help give us some idea of who will be coming. Tra, la, la, la, la!



Chrismon Service On Sunday, December 12th during the worship will be having a Chrismon Service when we will decorate the tree with symbols of our Savior's life. We will explore the meaning of each of these beautiful ornaments.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Join us as we celebrate our Savior's birth on Friday evening, December 24th, at 8:00 p.m. We will worship our Lord's nativity with song, the reading of Scripture and conclude with our traditional lighting of the candles. Come worship Christ, the newborn King on this, the holiest night of the year. 

December 26th, Christmas Sunday we will gather in Joy and Thanksgiving for the great gift God has presented to us. This will be an informal service. Come dressed in your new or old festive Christmas outfits.



New Year's Holy Communion We will usher in the Year of Our Lord 2010 as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion during the worship service on January 2, thanking God for the new year before us.


Christmas Baked Goods We will have samples and take orders for Christmas on December 5th during Fellowship Hour with delivery on December 19. This year you may also place a special request order. What a wonderful way of enjoying a variety of delicious Holiday treats and supporting the projects of Presbyterian Women at the same time!



Be an Angel this Christmas!

Once again, we will have the opportunity to "be an angel." Select one of the angel tags on the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree, purchase a gift for the adult or child listed on it and return it by December 19. It's a great way to share the joy of Christmas with those less fortunate in our community.

It's Poinsettia Time Again!

We'll be decorating the church with pots of poinsettias on December 19th. The cost will be \$6.00 per plant. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please see Lorena Johnson or Nancy Mays by December 12th to place your order. 



Flowers, Greeters And Coffee Hour

Thank you all so much for your continued support of these ministries!

December Greeters

- 5 Doug & Nancy Calkins
- 12 Howard & Pat Grossman
- 19 Ron & Jean Dick
- 26 The Adams Family

December Coffee Hour Hosts

- 5 PW Christmas goodies sampling
- 12 Joan Hollingshead
- 19 Ron & Jean Dick
- 26 **Host needed**

December Flower Calendar

- 5 Sloan
- 12 Calkins
- 19 Poinsettias
- 26 Poinsettias

Please note: Calendars for Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-up have been posted. Please reserve the date you desire as soon as possible.



The Brasstown Ringers Return!

We are delighted to announce that once again we will be treated to a performance of the Brasstown Ringers here in our Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, December 12th**. Everyone is invited to *Ring We Now of Christmas*, featuring old favorites like “Sing We Now of Christmas”, “Stille Nacht,” and “Wassail Song.” The children will enjoy bell versions of “Rudolph,” “Jingle Bells” and “Up On the Housetop.” Young and old alike will enjoy watching the ringers

“borrowing” bells from each other, ringing two or three in each hand, swapping from bells to chimes and sometimes just clowning around.

In existence for 18 years, Brasstown Ringers is a nondenominational community hand bell choir founded in 1992. The choir rings on six octaves of Schulmerich bells, five octaves of Whitechapel bells, and six octaves of Malmark choir chimes, along with various percussion instruments. While their concerts are free, donations to cover music and supplies are appreciated.

Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors, and join us! A reception will follow.

Please note: See Virginia Fisher if you can provide cookies, cheese ball, brownies, etc. for the reception.



Welcome Ethan Daniel Miller!

Congratulations to Leigh and Kevin Miller on the birth of their son, Ethan Daniel. Ethan was born on November 8 at 12:30 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 19 1/4” long.



Thornwell Thank You! Our “Turkey Card” donations were \$135.85 for Thornwell Home for Children. Thanks also, for the Box Tops & Labels for Education you save for Thornwell.



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